Union Government for the last three years to permit the Tobacco Board to intervene into market to help tobacco growers in sale of their produce, as State Trading Corporation of India Limited which used to intervene on a commercial basis has been disinvested; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken by the Government to help tobacco growers in marketing of tobacco through Tobacco Board to create buoyancy in the market in view of the decreasing demand for tobacco in recent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the auctions, the market situation is regularly reviewed by the Tobacco Board with all stakeholders *viz.* the representatives of Indian Tobacco Associations, manufacturers, and exporters, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers. The concerted efforts of the Tobacco Board have resulted in ensuring average price realisation to the farmers well above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government despite production far in excess of the authorised crop size fixed for the season.

Setting up of Tobacco units in SEZ areas

1533. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals for setting up of Tobacco units in SEZ areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of Indian and Foreign companies which have submitted the proposals for such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN):(a) and (b) A proposal has recently been received from M/s. Bommidala Enterprises Private Limited, Guntur for setting up of a unit in Madras Special Economic Zone for manufacture and export of cigarettes.